

09/898,948

REMARKS

The Applicant files this supplemental response under the assumption that the amendments in the previous response filed on June 1, 2004 have been entered. However, for the convenience of the Examiner, the Applicant is submitting, as Exhibit A, a copy of the pending claims containing the combined amendments of both the response of June 1, 2004 and this current supplemental response in which the claim additions are shown by underlining and/or the claim deletions are shown by strikeout.

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the telephone interview of July 14, 2004 and her suggestions for amending claims to include claim language which may further distinguish the current application from that of the references.

Specifically, to emphasize the above noted distinctions between the presently claimed invention and the applied art, independent claim 54 of this application now recites the features of "[a] method of processing free-format data stored in a computing system, comprising the steps of examining elements of the data to determine attributes of the data . . . to determine semantic and syntactic information (attributes) about the data, producing additional data relating to this information, in the form of a text object comprising a text node tree which includes pointer means enabling access to the elements of the text object and the free-format data, and the additional data being accessible by a query processing means to at least one of provide answers to queries relating to the semantic and syntactic information about the data and access the data to manipulate the data". Similar such features are also claimed in independent claims 73, 93, and 94 and are believed to clearly and patentably distinguish the presently claimed invention from all of the art of record, including the applied art.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

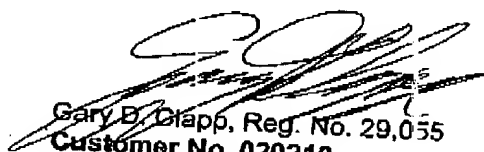
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In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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